(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "China is Japan's major worry" appearing in 'Pioneer' dated July 20, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there has been manifold increase in China's power;

(c) if not, the information available with the Government in this respect;

(d) whether it is also a fact that this increase in defence power is likely to destablise the security balance of this continent; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the news report.

(b) to (e). According to official Chinese statistics, quoted in the White Paper on National Defence Policy, Arms Control, Disarmament and Security, released on November 16, 1995, China's defence expenditure in 1994 was US $ 6.6 billion. According to official statistics China's expenditure on national defence has grown at an annual rate of 6.22% in the period 1979-94. China's defence expenditure in 1995 was US $ 7.5 billion. Estimates made by non-Chinese sources place China's defence expenditure at a higher level.

Government are also aware that China has continued to modernise and upgrade its defence forces and has, inter alia, inducted sophisticated hardware from abroad.

Government keep a constant watch on developments which have a bearing on India's security and is taking all appropriate steps to safeguard the security of the country.

[English]

Flyovers on Railway Crossings

3747. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM': Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway crossings all along the National Highways;

(b) the number of railway crossings which are having flyovers out of them; and

(c) the plan of the Government for construction of flyovers over the remaining crossings?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Evaluation of Papers of CBSE Examinations

3748. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CBSE checking wide off the mark" appearing in the Indian Express dated August 1, 1996;

(b) if so, facts thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such happenings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'CBSE checking wide off the mark' that appeared in the Indian Express dated 1st August, 1996.

As regards factual information about various points raised in the news-item, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has informed that the answer scripts of class X students evaluated at the Kendriya Vidyalaya, S.P. Marg, New Delhi, in the subject of Hindi in the Examination conducted by the Board in 1996 were evaluated by the teachers qualified in Hindi as reported by the Principal of the concerned school.

After the declaration of results of class X and class XII Examinations certain requests are received for re-checking/ verification of marks every year. In 1996 also, similar requests were received and the same were processed as per norms laid down in the Examination Bye-laws of the Board and the results of re-checking/verification of marks were communicated at the earliest to the concerned candidates. There is no provision for the re-evaluation of answer scripts in the Examination Bye-laws of the Board.

As regards the subject of Business Studies in class XII, the overall pass percentage was 92.8% in 1996 as compared to pass percentage of 91.6%, 92.7% and 92.8% in 1993, 1994 and 1995 respectively. In order to ensure proper evaluation of answer scripts the Board follows a very elaborate system of evaluation and detailed instructions in this regard have been laid down in its Examination Bye-laws. The Board has informed that the examiners normally evaluate 20 answer scripts a day which is within the limit prescribed by the Board in its guidelines after careful consideration.

[Translation]

National Award to Teachers

+3749. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary and Higher Secondary School teachers in Bihar awarded National Award every year by the President;

(b) the critera laid down for selection of these teachers;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the large scale manipulation being committed in the list of teachers recommended by Government of Bihar; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to check this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAKIA): (a) and (b). A statement is attached.

(c) Govt. of Bihar has informed that there has been no manipulation in the list of teachers recommended for National Award.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

(a) Number of National Awards allocated to the State of Bihar in the primary and secondary category is seven and five respectively.

(b) Criteria laid down for selection of teachers for the National Award is given below:

- Classroom teachers with atleast 15 years teaching experience and Headmasters with 20 years of experience and who are actually working as teachers/headmasters in recognised primary/ middle/high/higher secondary schools only shall be considered. Teachers who are teaching upto class VIII should be considered in the category of Primary School Teachers and those teaching classes IX-XII in the category of Secondary School Teachers.

- Normally retired teachers are not eligible for the award but those teachers who have served a part of the calender year (atleast for four months) may be considered if they fulfil all other conditions.

- Teachers whose names were recommended last year or before can be considered again if they are still otherwise eligible and are recommended by the State Government/Union Territory Administration.

- Teachers from the recognised institutions for the physically and mentally handicapped are also eligible for the awards, provided they fulfil all other prescribed conditions.

- Educational administrators (Inspectors of Education etc.) and the staff of training colleges are not eligible for these awards.

In addition to the above, the main considerations which should guide the selection of teachers are:

- Teacher's reputation in the local community.
- His/her academic efficiency and desire for its improvement.
- His/her genuine interest in and love for children.
- His/her involvement in the social life of the community.

[English]

Mosques under Archaeological Survey of India

3750. SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of mosques in different States, are at present under the management and supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the number of such mosques, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Muslims are not allowed to perform religious prayers (Namaz) five times every day in such mosques, particularly in Humayun Moqbara (Madarsa masjid);

(d) if so, whether the Government have the plan to allow the Muslim community to offer Namaz in these mosques in future;

(e) whether the Government would also allow those mosques to be electrified; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list is enclosed as statement

(c) As per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 the religious observances are not allowed in the monuments which were not under religious use at the time of protection.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). As per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules made